

QUARTERLY REPORT



CITY OF SUNNYVALE

FALL 2009

STREETSCAPE AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN ON HISTORIC MURPHY AVENUE

The Historic Murphy Avenue Streetscape and Utility Project is underway. This project is scheduled to continue for approximately nine months, until the end of March 2010.

Street and utility improvements will be phased to maintain public access to Downtown businesses. The following locations are part of the improvement project:

- Evelyn Ave., from Frances Ave. to Sunnyvale Ave.
- Murphy Ave., from Evelyn Ave. to Washington Ave.
- Washington Ave., from Frances to Ave. to Sunnyvale Ave.

The first phase of work took place on Evelyn and was substantially completed at the end of September. This included improvements for underground utilities, street lights and sidewalks. The current phase includes the closure of Murphy Avenue from Washington to Evelyn Avenue. No vehicles are allowed on Murphy Avenue during this work; pedestrian access, however, has been provided to all businesses along the street. When sidewalk reconstruction begins, pedestrian access will be maintained.

Washington Avenue will remain open to two-way traffic during

construction from September until March, but lane widths and turn lanes will be restricted.

Work is also planned for the public parking lot area between Murphy and Frances. Notices and signs will be posted to direct the public to additional free public parking during this project.

Businesses in the downtown area remain open during the project. Downtown Sunnyvale visitors and shoppers are encouraged to park in the new parking structure on the west side of Macy's. The entrance to the three new levels of parking is on Taaffe Street, south of Washington Avenue (see map).

If you have any questions about the Murphy Streetscape project, contact the City's Project Administration Office at (408) 730-7605 or visit our Web site at Downtown.inSunnyvale.com. ☼

PARDON OUR DUST: LIBRARY TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

Sunnyvale Public Library will close briefly in November and again in February to allow Library staff to install upgrades that will make the Library a lot easier — and faster — to use. Every item in the Library's collection will be equipped with a RFID tag. This is part of an automated materials handling system which will allow patrons to check items in and out instantly, without each book, CD or DVD having to be processed separately. The project will have many other benefits, including the ability to handle increased checkouts without adding additional staff, reduction in the amount of time it takes to find items, faster and more accurate inventory management, and improved customer service.

In order to install the automated materials handling system, the Library will close on November 9; no library materials will be due on the dates the Library is closed. As soon as the closure dates for February are known, they will be posted on the Library Web site, and information will be included the winter 2010 *Quarterly Report*.

SAVE THE DATE

The new Target store in Downtown Sunnyvale will have its grand opening on November 15.



**FOR ALL
CITY SERVICES,
TDD ACCESS
(408) 730-7501**

SUNNYVALE WORKS! GROWS TO MORE THAN \$90 MILLION

When the City announced the start of Sunnyvale Works! last April, the most exciting part was the launching of \$60 million dollars in accelerated public works capital improvement projects, ranging from concrete repairs to rebuilding a bridge.

Now, nearly six months into the *Sunnyvale Works!* program, we have seen the scope of work climb to more than \$90 million. The City has been able to expand the work based on three funding sources: federal ARRA (Stimulus Funding) grants, other grants and, perhaps most significantly, dramatically

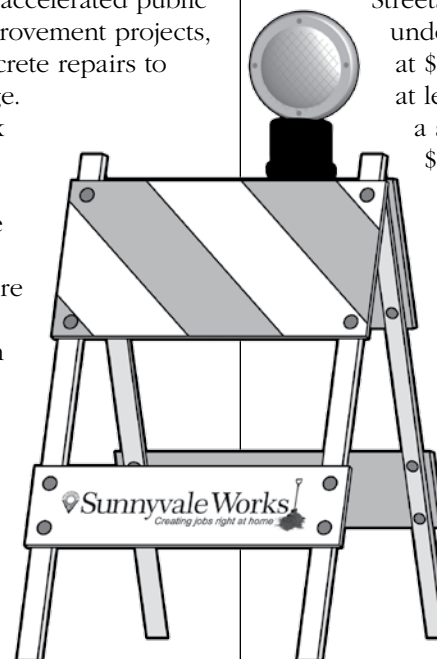
lower bids from contractors. Contractors, most of whom need to keep their crews working in this economy where not as many projects are being set, have, on average, provided bids to complete the work at nearly 30 percent less money than the City anticipated.

Some of the more dramatic examples of savings include the Wolfe Road Caltrain overpass work, which was estimated at \$2.5 million, was bid at \$1.02 million, a savings of nearly \$1.5 million; the Murphy Avenue Streetscape project, now underway, was estimated at \$5 million, but was bid at less than \$3.2 million, a savings of nearly \$2 million.

As of *Quarterly Report* press time, the City has already realized nearly \$6 million in savings, and this money has, in turn, been used to leverage even more projects. *Sunnyvale Works!* is not only putting people to work, but will also allow our residents to enjoy the completion of these projects

months and years ahead of their original schedule.

For more information, contact the Communications Office at (408) 730-7535, TDD (408) 730-7501, or e-mail communications@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us. ☼





CITY OF SUNNYVALE FALL 2009

Sunnyvale City Council

Anthony (Tony) Spitaleri, Mayor
Christopher R. Moylan, Vice Mayor
John Howe
Melinda Hamilton
Ron Swegles
David Whittum
Dean J. Chu*

* Appointed to Council while
Councilmember Lee serves on
active military duty.

City Manager

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Thank you for your feedback!
Quarterly Report is online at
QuarterlyReport.inSunnyvale.com

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COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT

The project to expand Columbia Neighborhood Center is steadily moving forward. The start of the construction phase, however, has been delayed to April 2010. The construction phrase is estimated to take about 13 months and is projected to be completed by June 2011. Staff has been working closely with architects and partner organizations to ensure the new facility will meet the needs of service providers who bring essential services to the community.

The CNC expansion project will add an additional 3,500 square feet to the existing facility and double the number of offices for social services. It will also double the number of exam rooms to increase the community health clinic's capacity to serve the health needs

of residents. The project will also add a large conference room that may be used as a classroom for adult and parenting education or community meetings, and a fitness room that will be used by both Columbia Middle School students and the community.

CNC was created to meet the health, social, recreational and educational needs of North Sunnyvale residents through a coordinated network of services. CNC's mission is "to support and empower youth and families so the children of the community will develop the life skills necessary to be successful in school and beyond." Several years ago, the CNC governing body, made up of School District and City of Sunnyvale officials, found CNC lacked adequate space to serve the community's needs, particularly with regard to

counseling and medical services and embarked on exploring options to expand the facility.

The Sunnyvale School District and the City of Sunnyvale agreed to share the cost of the expansion. The project cost estimate was \$3 million, divided equally between the two parties. In 2008, the Sunnyvale School District Board met in mid-June and Sunnyvale City Council met in early July to review the CNC expansion agreement and both parties voted to approve an agreement to support the path forward for the CNC expansion project. The Sunnyvale School District is the project lead on the expansion project, as they were when the CNC was originally built in 1996.

For more information, contact CNC at (408) 523-8150 or visit CNC.inSunnyvale.com.

SIX CANDIDATES TO VIE FOR SUNNYVALE COUNCIL SEATS

Six candidates have qualified to seek Sunnyvale City Council seats in this November's elections. Three Council seats will be open; two with incumbents trying for a second term, and one seat where the incumbent has served two terms and is not eligible for re-election. Sunnyvale Council members run for a specific seat, but are elected at-large. Council members serve four-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms.

The candidates who have been qualified for the ballot are:

Seat 1: Anthony (Tony) Spitaleri (incumbent), Patrick Meyering;

Seat 2: Michael Anthony Flores, Christopher R. Moylan (incumbent); **Seat 3:** James R. Griffith, Penny M. Kelly.

In order to be placed on the

ballot, a candidate must qualify by submitting at least 20 validated signatures of registered voters on nominations supporting the candidacy.

NEW WEB PAGE FOR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN SUNNYVALE

HOA.inSunnyvale.com

The City of Sunnyvale has created a Web page for homeowners' associations (HOA) and residents of common-interest developments, such as

condominium or townhome communities. The page includes information on City resources as well as links to information on HOA membership, HOA law and other common issues HOA members face. Check the page often as it will be frequently updated.

SUNNYVALE E-FILING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS

Just in time for the November election, the City of Sunnyvale has unveiled a new online campaign-disclosure system which will allow the public to view campaign disclosure filings and campaign committees. The system offers separate portals for candidates and the public, and may be accessed by visiting CandidateStatements.inSunnyvale.com.

This will make it more convenient for candidates to file the various public disclosures they are required to submit, and make it easy for anyone to view them without having to make a trip to City Hall.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at (408) 730-7483, TDD (408) 730-7501.

Planning

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Departments

Sunnyvale Home > Departments > Community Development > Planning Division > HOA Resources

Planning Division

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Commercial-Industrial
Planning
Current Projects Planning
Design Guidelines
Fees Planning
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Maps and Data
Residential Planning
Zoning Code

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Heritage Preservation
HOA Resources
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Tree Preservation

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RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS OF COMMON INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

Background

On April 7, 2009, the City Council made a series of policy decisions as part of a study to determine the enforceability of covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) for violations to City Code and project approvals and ways to aid homeowners associations (HOAs) in managing their communities (**RTC 09-090**, see link below). Many HOA members have come to the City for help in resolving issues within their communities. The City recognizes that homeowners in common interest developments face many challenges and RTC 09-090 discusses the four main issues HOA members have come to the City for assistance with: parking, exterior mechanical equipment (such as air conditioning units), maintenance of trash containers and minor modifications to individual properties. During the study, it was also realized that many homeowners may not be aware of the services the City offers and the wealth of information out there regarding HOA membership, HOA law and other common issues that HOA members face. This webpage is part of an effort in disseminating available information to residents of common interest developments within the City, and it will be continually updated.

RTC 09-090

Roles and Responsibilities

Definitions

§ Common Interest Development: As defined by state law, a common interest development (CID) is a form of real estate that is created whenever a separate property interest is coupled with an interest in the common area. In other words, a CID consists of individually-owned properties and common property that is owned by all the individual property owners. A CID can take the form of residential multi-story buildings or complex, single-family detached homes, attached townhomes, or industrial or commercial condominiums. Common property can include landscaped areas, recreational facilities, private streets or the exterior walls and roof of a condominium. All individuals that buy property in a CID automatically become a member of

Questions?
One-Stop Permit Center
City Hall
456 W. Olive Ave
(408) 730-7444
8am - 5pm
Closed 12pm - 1pm

Quick Links

[Planning Division Home](#)

[Application Information](#)

[Design Guidelines](#)

[Fence Requirements](#)

[General Plan](#)

[Online Tree Removal Permits](#)

[Online Zoning Designations](#)

[Residential Remodel or Addition](#)

[Sheds/Patio Covers](#)

ECONOMIC STIMULUS UPDATE

Since February, Sunnyvale has been working to identify funding opportunities available through the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. To date, the City has applied for more than \$20 million dollars, and NOVA has received approximately \$4.7 million. The City has also been approved for funding to pay for improvements to the Wolfe Road Caltrain crossing, which will be one of the first stimulus funded transportation projects in Northern California. For the most up-to-date information on Sunnyvale’s stimulus applications, visit *RecoveryAct.inSunnyvale.com*. The articles below detail some of the programs the City plans to fund with Recovery Act funds.

SUNNYVALE APPLIES FOR FUNDING FOR GREEN PROJECTS

Sunnyvale has applied for approximately \$1.3 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Formula Block Grant (EECBG) funding through the American Recovery and Investment Act. The EECBG program aims to reduce fossil fuel emissions and energy use while improving energy efficiency.

The City has submitted three proposed projects for funding through the EECBG. The first project proposed is the replacement of 200-watt high pressure sodium (HPS) street lights with 117-watt light emitting diode (LED) street lights. By replacing the approximately 3,400 200-watt HPS street lights the City will realize annual cost savings of approximately \$200,000. In addition, the CO₂ emissions will be reduced by more than 1,100 tons per year. This will go a long way in helping the City meet Council’s goal of reducing CO₂ emissions 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

The second project to receive funding is for the development of a Community Climate Action Plan (CAP). A CAP provides a list of actions and a timeline for achieving emissions reduction targets. Once developed and implemented, the CAP will guide City Council and staff in meeting Council’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions goal, in addition to the commitment by signing the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement in which cities voluntarily commit to reducing all GHG’s a minimum of 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

The third project for which funding has been requested, is the continued collaboration with, and support for, Acterra. Acterra is a nonprofit organization that provides volunteer training and free home energy audits through their Green@Home program. Funding will be used to continue training opportunities for residents

and supporting home energy audits to educate the community and raise the level of awareness for energy savings and sustainability.

Completion of these projects is dependent on funding. When EECBG funds have been received, the City will begin implementing these energy-saving measures and programs. For more information on Acterra’s Green@Home program or to receive a free home energy audit, visit their Web site at *www.acterra.org*.

SUNNYVALE RELEASES ANNUAL RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Sunnyvale has released the results of its annual Resident Satisfaction Survey. The results show that more than 80 percent of the respondents believed the overall quality of life in Sunnyvale is good or excellent, and residents continue to feel safe from crime.

The survey also shows Sunnyvale’s culturally-diverse community continues to favorably rate the City’s openness and acceptance toward people of various backgrounds. Many of the trends shown in the survey are a reflection of current economic pressures. The majority of responses, however, continue to reflect the City’s commitment to excellence in serving the community.

The survey was conducted by the National Research Center, an independent survey organization that conducts surveys for government agencies across the nation. To view the results of the 2009 survey, as well as past surveys, visit *Survey.inSunnyvale.com*.

NOVA PUTS STIMULUS FUNDING TO WORK

Thanks to the American Recovery Investment Act, NOVA — the City’s Department of Employment Development — has increased the amount of Federal funding it receives to provide services to unemployed and under employed individuals in the Silicon Valley by nearly 50 percent.

NOVA receives funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to serve four specific populations within the seven cities of northern Santa Clara

County that comprise NOVA’s local workforce investment area: youth; adults; dislocated workers, individuals who have been affected by layoffs; and Rapid Response for businesses experiencing downsizing or closure. All four of these allocated pools of funding are calculated by precise formulas at the federal and state level.

While NOVA is one of the geographically smallest of California’s 49 workforce investment boards, it has historically experienced layoff activity five or six times what would

be expected for its population. When stimulus funds earmarked for workforce development were allocated to states, California determined that NOVA should receive the greatest share of the funding for rapid response, approximately \$1.8 million, acknowledging this disproportionate need.

Of the remaining \$2.9 million of stimulus funding, a little more than \$1 million went toward developing NOVA’s highly-successful summer youth employment program, allowing NOVA to place

200 youth in on-the-job training in a variety of locations throughout the region. Nearly all of the \$1.9 million targeting adults and dislocated workers will be used to provide training to members of the local community who meet eligibility criteria required under the federal Workforce Investment Act.

For more information about NOVA or its services, stop by the CONNECT! Job Seeker Center at 420 South Pastoria Ave. or visit NOVA online at *www.novaworks.org*.



A NEW WAY OF THINKING Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT)

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is broadening its program scope from an emphasis on code enforcement to integrating and coordinating City functions. The interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in the neighborhoods will include: Departments of Community Services, Community Development, City Manager’s Office, Public Safety, Parks Division, and Youth and Family Services. The NEAT approach to solving problems in the neighborhoods will include expanded community outreach to residents. Staff will collaborate with neighborhoods to identify issues and leverage resources to meet the needs.

NEAT goals are to build community trust, engage and empower community members to solve problems and improve the quality of life in Sunnyvale. NEAT is aimed to improve aesthetics and safety and will provide resources including: assistance through grants, graffiti abatement, and code enforcement volunteers.

NEAT areas will be chosen bi-annually to focus on neighborhoods benefiting from multi-departmental resources. The first NEAT target area will be the northern Columbia/SNAIL neighborhood. Community members will be able to find out more about NEAT via a Web site and hotline coming online soon. NEAT will conduct community outreach meetings to identify and resolve issues.

For more information, contact Dale Huber, Senior Neighborhood Preservation Specialist, Department of Community Development at (408) 730-7614 or *dhuber@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us*.

PROTECT OUR SEWERS FROM POTENTIAL BLOCKAGES

Southern-style fried chicken, onions sautéed in butter or oil, taco fiestas and delicious curries are all mouth-watering feasts. Most residents, however, may be surprised to learn that pouring the remains of these culinary delights into a drain or garbage disposal can cause costly, unpleasant sewer blockages and overflows.

Prevent Sewer Blockages

This is a problem that all homeowners and renters can help

to prevent. Follow these simple tips from the City of Sunnyvale to reduce the amount of fats, oil and grease that enter the sanitary sewer pipes protecting you and the environment:

- Do not put fats, oil, grease or greasy foods in the garbage disposal or drain; do not pour dairy products such as heavy creams, cheese, butter, sauces or gravy down the drain.
- Keep an empty metal can handy and pour oily food waste into it. Wastes from greasy pans can be poured in too, and the remaining grease should be wiped from the pan using a paper towel prior to washing. Allow grease to cool in the container before throwing it in the trash.

- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material, such as cat litter or coffee grounds, and place it in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Use non-toxic products to maintain your drain. Pour ¼ cup of baking soda down the drain followed by ½ cup of white vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water. Follow this procedure monthly to help prevent clogs and maintain your sewer line.

For more information about how to prevent fats, oils and grease from damaging sewers and the environment, call Environmental Outreach at (408) 730-7717, TDD (408) 730-7501. ☎

2009 SUNNYVALE COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

DISTINGUISHED RESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Jeannie Biddle, for her tireless efforts with and on behalf of the SNAIL neighborhood association

OUTSTANDING BUSINESSPERSON

Kevin Surace, for his entrepreneurial and innovative work with Serious Materials

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS

Susan Buchs, for her many years of service with Sunnyvale Community Players

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Ruth Johnson, for her work with Sunnyvale students since 1971

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Paul Schaefer, for his work training voluntary student military color guards at Lakewood School

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Lockheed Martin Space Systems, for their efforts to help their employees find alternatives to driving to work, and for “greening” their Sunnyvale campus

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Albert Wong, for a staggeringly long list of achievements and accolades during his years at Homestead High School

MAYOR’S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Nancy Tivol, for her continued outstanding service to the Sunnyvale community.

TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF THE SUNNYVALE FARMERS MARKET

The Sunnyvale Farmers Market has been temporarily relocated during the Murphy Avenue Streetscape and Utility Project, to the Sunnyvale Caltrain Station parking lot, located on Evelyn and Frances Avenues. The Farmers Market will remain at the station until next Spring. Visit the market at its new location every Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For additional information, contact Urban Village at (510) 745-7100, or visit www.urbanvillageonline.com.

SUNNYVALE INTRODUCES THE “ELECTRONIC CITY HALL”

The City of Sunnyvale has created an Electronic City Hall on its Web site, enabling residents and others to easily conduct business with the City from the comfort of their own homes.

Visitors to the City’s Web site at www.sunnyvale.ca.gov will see a link to the Electronic City Hall on the front page. Following that link, visitors will have the option of many different online transactions. As the City moves to expand online

services, new links will be added as services are added.

Establishing an Electronic City Hall is an important step in serving our community. Equally important is the benefit to the environment. By conducting business online, fewer trips are made to City Hall and the amount of paper used in conducting business with the City is reduced. Additionally, the Electronic City Hall operates around the clock, allowing visitors to do business on their own schedule. ☎

SHOP SUNNYVALE FOR YOUR FALL AND WINTER NEEDS!

The City has an online shopping center directory that lists all shops and services located in one of Sunnyvale’s 47 shopping centers. Major retailers as well as boutiques will help you prepare for the coming winter months. You can access shopping center information at shop.inSunnyvale.com.

**For All City Services,
TDD Access (408) 730-7501**

ADULT PROGRAMS AT THE SUNNYVALE LIBRARY IN OCTOBER – DECEMBER

A Conversation with Elizabeth Edgerly, PhD: Maintain Your Brain

Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.
Elizabeth Edgerly, Ph.D., is Chief Programs Officer of the Alzheimer's Association, Northern California & Northern Nevada, as well as a clinical psychologist. She will present a fun, motivational talk for those who want to reduce their risk of Alzheimer's disease in later life. Focus will be on the research behind the Alzheimer's Association's Maintain Your Brain program.

What's New in Digital Photography?

Monday, October 12, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Chris Willis from *Snapfish.com* will talk about the latest trends and technology in digital photography. For more information, call (408) 730-7300 and choose option 5. No registration is necessary.

Brain Games

Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Join us for our third Brain Games night and play *KenKen*, an addictive new number puzzle. Learn how to play, and then challenge yourself with a variety of puzzles. There will also be Web site games, Sudoku, the world's largest crossword, the set card game, and Big Brain Academy on the Library's Nintendo Wii. Come join the fun and train your brain!

How to Renovate a Home Landscape

Wednesday, November 4, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Was your house's landscape beautiful 40 years ago, but less so now? Come learn how to whip it into shape for the 21st Century. We'll also talk about how to integrate low-water use and general sustainability principles into a good looking home landscape. This program

is presented by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County. No registration is required.

Have Digital Photos... Now What?

Monday, November 16, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
If you have lots of digital photos and are not sure what to do next,

Chris Willis from *Snapfish.com* will introduce you to easy ways to edit and share your photos with friends and family. You will learn editing and organizing techniques using Picasa. You will also learn fun ways to manage and share photos using sites like Flickr and Snapfish. No registration is necessary. ☀

WHAT'S AN UPSIDE DOWN JELLYFISH?

And other strange reference questions from the Library

When was the last time you called the Library's reference desk with a question? Reference librarians enjoy helping you find the resources to investigate both large and small mysteries. Some questions require only a quick search on the Internet or a visit to the City's Web site. Others require more time. The following is a sampling of some of the more interesting questions we've received in the past several months. In case you are curious, we've included the answers as well:

Q: What is an upside-down jellyfish?

A: An upside down jellyfish spends its time lying on its back on the bottom of a shallow lagoon, intertidal sandbank or mudflat around the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific. With its mouth lobes exposed to sunlight, it lives on the products of photosynthesis in its tissues instead of trapping prey in its tentacles. (Richard Ellis: *Encyclopedia of the Sea*.)

Q: Who invented the sandwich?

A: The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America discusses the history of the sandwich, which is probably named for the fourth Earl of Sandwich, who helped to popularize it in the 1700s in England. Sandwich recipes were first published in American cookbooks in 1816.

Q: When was "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance?

A: The expression "under God" was added in 1954 by an act of Congress (Urban Legends Reference Pages at www.snopes.com)

Q: Where can I donate used eyeglasses?

A: A list of places where eyeglasses can be recycled can be found by visiting Recycling.inSunnyvale.com and clicking on Recycling A-Z.

Q: Can you tell me about a genealogy center on the Isle of Harris in the Hebrides in Scotland?

A: he Web site for the genealogy center on the Isle of Harris in the Hebrides in Scotland at www.seallam.com/intro.htm describes the center and its services.

Q: How do legal systems differ in various countries?

A: World Book Encyclopedia has basic information on different legal systems.

If you would like help with your quest, call (408) 730-7300 or stop by the reference desk today.



LIBRARY CIRCULATION: SKY-HIGH!

How often do you use the Library? Sunnyvale residents are using the Library more than ever to check out bestsellers, how-to books, DVDs, books on CD and children's books. Last fiscal year, Library patrons checked out a record 2,481,633 items.

So, what are people checking out? As a collection, DVDs have the largest circulation, but they only go out for a week, as opposed to most items that go out for three weeks. They are followed by picture books for children, adult fiction, easy readers and music CDs. The top circulating categories in the nonfiction area are computer books, cookbooks, craft books and travel guides.

More specifically, in the fiction collection for adults, popular items

from last year include *Foreign Body*, by Robin Cook; *Unaccustomed Earth*, by Jhumpa Lahiri; *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini; and *Sundays at Tiffany's*, by James Patterson. In the nonfiction collection, *Freakonomics*, by Steven Lavitt, remains popular, even though it was published in 2005, along with the *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*, books by Robert Kiyosaki; *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, by Thomas Friedman; *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson; *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch; and anything about President Obama. Surprisingly, the top-circulating DVDs were not recent blockbusters, but rather movies that have been out for awhile, such as *Alien Agent*, *Doomsday* and *Shadow Man*.

Children are busy checking out books as well, with the *Berenstein*

Bears and *Cam Jansen* among their favorites, as are the *Magic School Bus* books and the *Fairy* books by Daisy Meadow. *Curious George* books and *Fancy Nancy* also made the list of top-circulators for the younger crowd. For older children, *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, by Jeff Kinney, books by Erin Hunter and books about animals and science are very popular. It will probably come as no surprise that the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyers are among the most-read titles by teens.

Even though the Library buys multiple copies of these popular titles, be prepared: you might find they are checked out. The librarians can help you place a hold or find it at another library, and there are many other great titles from which to choose. Stop by soon! ☀

CALLING ALL PRE-SCHOOLERS!

Sunnyvale Library will start a new weekly story time and crafts program in October for 3½ – 5 year olds and their caregivers. The October theme is "Concepts," which introduces colors, numbers and letters. Join us each week beginning Wednesday, October 7 for a 45-minute program. No advanced signup required.

LOW-COST PAPER-SHREDDING EVENT

CINTAS Document Management will provide personal document shredding services for Sunnyvale residents, Saturday, October 10, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., during the Pancake Breakfast Event across the street at Fire Station 2. This popular event will once again be held in the Lowe's parking lot, at the corner of Wolfe Road and Arques Avenue. Service is limited to 15 bankers' boxes or paper grocery bags per vehicle. The cost of the shredding service is \$1 per bag, and all proceeds will benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. For more information, call (408) 730-7140.

NEW GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Sunnyvale City Council has adopted green-building standards for new construction, additions, and remodeling of buildings. The new requirements are designed to encourage sustainable building practices that lessen the impact on the environment. The new standards go into effect for all projects submitting building permit applications on or after January 1, 2010.

For residential projects, depending on the size of development and scope of work, applications for permits may be required to include

the Build It Green (BIG) New Home or Multi-Family checklist.

For non-residential projects, depending on the size of development and scope of work, applicants may be required to complete the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) checklist. The point level required varies based on the size of the development. In most cases, verification may be determined by City staff or a LEED-accredited professional. Where incentives are used, certification by the USGBC may be required.

Incentives are offered for projects that exceed the minimum green building thresholds established by the City Council. These incentives are designed to encourage project applicants and developers to provide additional green building features.

For additional information regarding specific requirements for various types of projects, please visit GreenBuilding.inSunnyvale.com, or contact the Community Development Department at (408) 730-7444, TDD (408) 730-7501. Project thresholds are subject to change based on updated BIG and LEED programs. ☼

EXTRA DUMPING WEEKENDS FOR RESIDENTS

Sunnyvale residents may dump extra household trash at the Sunnyvale SMaRT Station as part of the ChoiceCollect garbage collection program. During

SMaRT Station®, 301 Carl Road
Oct. 3 and 4, Oct. 10 and 11
8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

this four-day special dumping event, normal dumping fees are waived.

This is a popular event and may result in a waiting time for participants to unload. (See related article about on-call collection appointments and donating.)

Proof of residency is required at the station's scale house. Acceptable proof of residency includes:

- Driver's license or photo ID with a Sunnyvale address
- Driver's license (non-Sunnyvale address) plus a 2009 PG&E, telephone, cable or City of Sunnyvale utility bill showing a name matching the driver's license

Guidelines

- Vehicles up to one-ton load capacity will be admitted.

- Put electronic products in a separate box separated from other items.
- Up to four TVs, monitors and tires per load will be accepted.
- Asphalt, concrete, dirt and sod require special handling. Drivers will be diverted to a separate line to unload these materials.
- No hazardous materials will be accepted.

For the health and safety of participants and workers each driver is asked to drive carefully through the station and follow all instructions. Being able to unload quickly so that other residents can access the dumping area is important.

Residents who want to recycle at the Recycling Center or buy-back area will be provided separate access to the area.

For more information, contact the Sunnyvale Recycling Program at (408) 730-7262 or the SMaRT Station at (408) 752-8530. ☼

CONVENIENT ON-CALL COLLECTION FOR OCCASIONAL EXTRA GARBAGE

No need to rush around getting ready for fall clean-up! Now the City and its service provider, Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling, have year-round curbside collection for unwanted household goods. Sunnyvale residents living in single and multi-family homes, including mobile homes, are provided with on-call collection service.

ChoiceCollect On-call Service is designed for times when a resident has unwanted household goods to be collected beyond what fits into the garbage cart. This service replaces the Citywide curbside collections formerly held each spring and fall.

Up to two cubic yards of non-hazardous household trash or yard material, plus two bulky items can be put at curbside for each on-call appointment; two calls per year per resident account are permitted. Do not set items at curbside without calling for an appointment. No-charge extra dumping is still available at the SMaRT Station®. To schedule a curbside pick-up, call Utility Customer Service at (408) 730-7400. Complete guidelines are available online at www.sunnyvalerecycles.org.

MERCURY FEVER THERMOMETER EXCHANGE

Help the Environment with Proper Mercury Disposal

Would you like to properly dispose of that old mercury fever thermometer that might be stored in the back of your medicine cabinet or that bathroom vanity drawer? If so, a mercury fever thermometer exchange will be held Wednesday, October 14, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The first 100 residents who bring in their mercury fever thermometers will receive a free, non-mercury-containing fever thermometer in exchange, limited to one per household. To avoid breakage and contamination, mercury fever thermometers must be contained in an unbreakable and closed container, such as its original case, a plastic toothbrush holder, or a soda/water bottle with a screw-on cap. As a second measure of protection, the closed container must be placed in a sealable plastic bag, such as a zip-lock bag. Other mercury-containing products will not be accepted at this event. For more information and details about household hazardous waste drop-off events at the SMaRT Station, call Environmental Outreach at (408) 730-7738, TDD (408) 730-7501.

NEIGHBORHOOD WELLNESS WALKS AT COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Generations Community Wellness, a Sunnyvale-based nonprofit organization, will be Saturday morning "Neighborhood Wellness Walks" this fall to educate families about making healthy choices, including information on nutrition and adding physical activity into daily life.

The multi-agency program, which receives support from Kaiser Permanente, runs October 17 through November 21. In addition to the City of Sunnyvale, other

participating organizations include Santa Clara County Public Health Department, First 5 of Santa Clara County and the California Vintage Baseball Federation (www.cvbhf.com). Additional agencies may participate and provide services, based on availability. Also this fall, Kaiser Permanente doctors will offer a wellness workshop to the Columbia neighborhood community, on topics such as diabetes prevention and treatment.

For more information on the walks, contact Aby Ryan via e-mail at aby@gteams.org. ☼

SUNNYVALE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION DRILLS FOR EFFECTIVENESS

On June 10, more than 60 city employees assigned to the Sunnyvale Emergency Management Organization (EMO) participated in a large scale earthquake drill. During the exercise, EMO members were supported by four Public Safety lieutenants acting as the “outside world.”

More than 25 people acted as spontaneous volunteers and were processed at the Volunteer Center in the Community Center ballroom. Additionally, Sunnyvale Amateur Radio Emergency Service (SARES) supplied communications with eight of their members.

Simulated newscasts and phone calls provided updates on damage and available resources in real-time

throughout the drill. EMO team members had to respond to the situation as it unfolded. The four-hour drill gave the opportunity to practice communications, resource allocation, team work, patience and system management, among other things. At the end of the event, staff debriefed and discussed what went well and what could be improved.

For months prior to the drill, EMO members representing each City department spent hours training in preparation for the drill. Sunnyvale Office of Emergency Services Lt. John Gienger and Community Services Officer Chere Sampson coordinated the effort.

Some of the systems used in current EMO efforts stem from the 1991 Oakland Hills fire. In

addition, the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) was born from lessons learned in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.. The federal government looked to California in their efforts to strengthen the national management system of personnel and equipment. The SEMS system was analyzed and virtually adopted across the board and renamed the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Services at (408) 730-7190, TDD (408) 730-7501 or visit OES.inSunnyvale.com.



PROVIDE HEALTH, HOPE AND A HOME

5TH ANNUAL APPLIED MATERIALS SILICON VALLEY TURKEY TROT

THANKSGIVING DAY
5K FUN RUN/WALK AND 10K RUN

Register online at www.svturkeytrot.com or call (408) 453-4750

This event supports Second Harvest Food Bank, Housing Trust of Santa Clara and Santa Clara Family Health Foundation’s Children’s Health Initiative

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR FIRST-TIME JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN SUNNYVALE

The Santa Clara County Probation Department, in a joint effort with the City of Sunnyvale is working to help prevent juvenile delinquency. Currently, a probation officer is assigned to the Sunnyvale’s Crime Prevention Unit to work with youth as part of the City’s Restorative Justice Program (RJP). Sunnyvale minors referred to this program do not have prior formal criminal histories, but have been issued a citation by a police officer for offenses such as shoplifting, trespassing, vandalism, minor property offenses, minor drug offenses or non-aggravated assault and battery. Minors referred to the RJP come from all economic, social, educational and ethnic backgrounds.

By working with these youth, RJP protects the community, holds the minors personally accountable for their delinquent acts; collects any required restitution payable for the victim and helps the youth become contributing, responsible members of the community. The program collaborates with a local community-based organization to provide classes and counseling strategies to allow the youth to reflect on their decisions that led to their delinquent acts, as well as the potential long-term consequences of not changing their current behavior.

One of the classes that make up the RJP is Choices, presented by a Sunnyvale neighborhood resource officer (NRO) and the probation officer. The NRO discusses the most common law violations committed by youth, while the probation officer discusses the juvenile justice system and how choices made as a youth can affect the youth’s future, both as a juvenile and an adult.

Since the program began in 2007, more than 800 Sunnyvale youth have participated by the RJP.

SEE A SHOW AT SUNNYVALE THEATRE THIS FALL

Enjoy a variety of live performances, right here in Sunnyvale this fall! Sunnyvale Theatre, located at the Sunnyvale Community Center, offers concerts, Broadway-style shows, theater for young audiences and more. Shows are affordably priced and free parking is plentiful. Call the box office at (408) 733-6611 or visit Arts.inSunnyvale.com for more information about any of these upcoming shows.

Evenings of Cultural Arts

Sunnyvale Theatre offers world-class multicultural music and dance concerts, one evening a month, September through April. Shows are Saturdays at 8 p.m., with tickets \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students and seniors. Fall performances include:

- **September 12** — Celtic trio Golden Bough performing the world premiere of their new show America Bound, inspired by the Irish and Scottish immigrant experience.
- **October 17** — Award-winning Hawaiian singer, musician, composer and hula teacher



Celtic trio Golden Bough performs September 12.

Mahealani Uchiyama and Ka Ua Tuahine Polynesian Dance Company, performing sweet, soulful world music.

- **November 28** — Sunnyvale-based Chinese dance company Bayland Dancing, accompanied by South Bay Chinese Orchestra, sharing colorful traditional dances and songs of China’s many ethnic groups.

See “Sunnyvale Theater”, page 9

SENIOR TRIPS

Las Vegas New Year

December 29 – January 2, 2010

This five-day trip includes: seven meals, trip insurance and gratuities. Price is \$1,855 per person, double occupancy; \$2,355, single occupancy. Deposit is \$440 per person, with balance due October 15.

Natural Wonders Of Costa Rica

February 17, 2010 – February 25, 2010

This nine-day trip includes: 18 meals, trip insurance and gratuities. Price is \$2,766 per person, double occupancy; \$3,366, single occupancy. Deposit is \$690 per person, with balance due December 3.

England, Scotland and Ireland

April 2010

Call for details.

Oregon Trails

June 10, 2010 – June 15, 2010

Featuring: The Portland Rose Festival, Mount St. Helens, Astoria, Multnomah Falls, and Columbia River Gorge Cruise

This six-day trip includes: eight meals, trip insurance and gratuities. Price is \$1,867 per person, double occupancy; \$2,367, single occupancy. Deposit is \$500 per person, with balance due March 26, 2010.

Rhine, Bavaria and Oberammergau Passion Play

September 22, 2010 – September 30, 2010

This nine-day trip includes 12 meals, trip insurance and gratuities. Price is \$4,720 per person, double occupancy. Deposit is \$879 per person, double occupancy. Due to the Passion Play tickets, a second deposit of \$1,000 per person is due by October 31, with the balance due May 24, 2010.

For more information on all of our day trips, visit *Seniors.inSunnyvale.com*, to see the current information all our day and extended trips. ☺

YOUTH, FAMILY AND CHILD CARE RESOURCES PROGRAM

The City of Sunnyvale's Youth, Family and Child Care Resources (YFCCR) Program is dedicated to keeping Sunnyvale a great place to raise a family by

ensuring a high quality of life for youth and families, facilitating affordable, high-quality child care and early education services for children through age 12 and leveraging community resources to support youth and families, YFCCR is an invaluable resource for Sunnyvale families.

YFCCR offers the community a variety of services including support services for parents, child-care professionals and businesses. Support for parents includes information and referrals about child care options, including up-to-date listings of all licensed Sunnyvale family and center-based child care providers, resources for evaluation and selecting quality child care providers, parent education workshops on a variety of engaging and skill-building topics, and opportunities for community leadership, service work and civic engagement.

YFCCR supports the local Sunnyvale business community by assisting employers in exploring ways to address their employees' child care, youth or family needs. In addition, employees can be given up-to-date information on licensed child care options in Sunnyvale. These free services can help businesses facilitate a less stressful relocation for new employees and strengthen human

resource department employee assistance initiatives.

Child care professionals interested in expanding or opening a family child care home or center in Sunnyvale are offered assistance by YFCCR in accessing community provider resources including City and state requirements for licensing and expansion. In addition, YFCCR offers regular free professional development training in collaboration with the UC Davis Center for Excellence in Child Development. The program also strongly promotes opportunities for professional leadership and community involvement.

In an effort to further support and show the City of Sunnyvale's deep appreciation for the valued work and dedication of local Child Care Professionals, YFCCR recently held the first annual Child Care Professional Appreciation Tour in conjunction with the National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day on May 8. The tour program's purpose was to bring public recognition to the vital work child care providers do while allowing public officials an opportunity to gain a hands-on awareness of the child care field. In addition, child care providers had the opportunity to learn more about the programs and resources available to them and the families they serve through YFCCR. A total of 21 family child care homes and centers participated in the tour program and were given certificates and best practice in early child development program text books for their resource libraries.

To get more information about the programs and services of the City of Sunnyvale's Youth, Family and Child Care Resources, call (408) 523-8150 or visit *ChildCare.inSunnyvale.com*. ☺

2ND ANNUAL SUNNYVALE HOWL'OWEEN PET PARADE & FAIRE

October 25, Downtown Sunnyvale

Give yourself, your kids and your pet an opportunity to wear their Halloween costume twice this year by participating in the second annual Howl'oween Pet Parade and Faire on October 25. See some of the zaniest pet and human costumes, enjoy the "American Pet Idol" talent contest, and explore pet themed arts and crafts vendors, products and information all geared toward your favorite pet.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. with the Pet Parade, followed by the Fair at 11:30 a.m., which will be held at Plaza del Sol.

For registration forms and more information, visit www.downtownsunnyvale.com/petparade.



SUNNYVALE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Fire Station 2, Arquess Avenue at Wolfe Road

- Meet the officers, engine rides, tower tours
- Suggested donation: \$6 adults, \$4 kids 10 yrs old and under; includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk or coffee
- Proceeds benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation
- For more information, call (408) 730-7140

PARENT PARTICIPATION CLASSES: FOR YOU AS MUCH AS THE KIDS

The secret is out: parents, grandparents and caretakers love participating in parent-child classes as much as the kids do. Parent-participation classes are more popular than ever, and in response, Sunnyvale has lots of parent-child classes from which to choose, including music, dance, gymnastics, juggling, art, pottery, cooking and sports.

If you haven't participated in a parent-child class, here's what you've been missing:

Dedicated quality one-on-one time with your child. You can count on having a special time together each week, free from the distraction of chores, homework, errands, your cell phone, television and even other siblings competing for your attention.

Recreation time for yourself. As an active participant in the class, you get to have fun too. This is especially important for busy parents whose personal recreation time often gets short-changed because of work and family obligations.

A chance to get to know your child better. Watching how your child interacts with the teacher and other students and how he or she approaches the activities will help you better understand your child's temperament, likes and dislikes, and how he or she learns best.

A chance to set a great example. In a classroom setting where you are both learners, you will have an opportunity to model being a good student. You do this by being open to trying new things, following the

teacher's directions and relaxing the expectation of perfection from both yourself and your child.

For a complete listing of parent participation classes, visit our Web site at Recreation.inSunnyvale.com or call (408) 730-7350, TDD (408) 730-7501. ☎



NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

Now in its fourth year of funding neighborhood events and projects, the neighborhood grant program continues strengthening relationships among residents. The program offers grants of up to \$1000 per association or group, which must be applied for in advance and correspond to at least one of four categories:

- Increasing communication among neighbors
- Building bridges between cultural groups
- Improving the physical condition of the neighborhood
- Enhancing neighborhood pride and identity

This year, the Neighborhood Grant Program is helping fund events and projects for 14 different

neighborhood groups and associations. Events include National Night Out celebrations, holiday gatherings, backyard tours, ice cream socials and other community-building activities. Projects include neighborhood newsletter production, educational outreach efforts, resident directories and neighborhood beautification projects.

The applications for the 2009/10 fiscal year have been closed, this is a great time to begin thinking about how your neighborhood group or association can apply to use grant funds in FY 2010/11. For more information, please call the Community Resources Division at (408) 730-7599, TDD (408) 730-7501 or visit Neighborhoods.inSunnyvale.com. ☎

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE CITY AND BEYOND

Are you looking for a way to contribute to your community through volunteering?

The City of Sunnyvale has a number of volunteer opportunities in departments and at special events. To find out the most current availabilities, visit Volunteering.inSunnyvale.com and click on Volunteer Opportunities. If you find something of interest, click on Volunteer Application, fill out the online application and click *submit*.

Under *Volunteer Opportunities*, there is a list of referrals to other agencies looking for volunteers. There also are many other local opportunities – here are some ways to find them:

- Contact your favorite charity or nonprofit organization to find out about their volunteer opportunities.
- Look around your neighborhood for elderly or disabled residents who may need assistance with shopping, yard work or other assistance.
- Check with your school for projects that need volunteers.
- Visit Allforgood.org, which lists volunteer opportunities by ZIP codes.
- Check out information about *United We Serve*, the president's nationwide service initiative, at www.serve.gov.

For more information about volunteer opportunities in the City, contact the Volunteer Resources office at (408) 730-7533, TDD (408) 730-7501.

Sunnyvale Theater, continued from page 7

- **December 12** — Internationally acclaimed children's a cappella choir VOENA Voices of Eve 'n' Angels performing seasonal music from around the globe, in the group's exciting signature style, with movement, color and percussion instruments.

Sunnyvale Community Players

The Theatre is home to Sunnyvale's community theater company, Sunnyvale Community Players, which allows locals residents an opportunity to participate in Broadway- and off-Broadway-style musicals. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays 2:30 p.m., Thursdays 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$22 for students and seniors, \$12 for children 5 and younger, all seats are \$20 on Thursdays.

- **September 18 – October 11**
Once Upon a Mattress, a rollicking musical adaptation of the fairy tale *"The Princess and the Pea."*
- **October 30 – November 22**
The Fantasticks, the timeless boy-meets-girl romance which has charmed New York audiences for five decades to become the longest-running show in the world.

California Theatre Center

During the school year, Sunnyvale's professional theater company, CTC, performs children's literature adaptations for school and family audiences. Public shows are 11 a.m. Saturdays and selected evenings at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$11, or \$12 at the door. For more information or tickets, call CTC at (408) 245-2978.

- **October 13 – 23**
Brave Irene
- **October 26 – November 16**
Apollo: To the Moon
- **November 9 – 20**
Jack and the Beanstalk
- **November 30 – December 4**
Elves and the Shoemaker
- **December 7 – 18**
Madeline's Christmas

Sunnyvale Theatre is also available for rent, and a wide variety of shows are offered by individual artists, performing arts schools and smaller performing companies. Show times and ticket prices vary. Public shows offered by other presenters this fall includes the Sunnyvale Singers holiday concert on December 13 and an Indian contemporary dance recital on December 6. ☎

RESIDENTS URGED TO CALL THE CITY FIRST FOR SEWER ISSUES

Your toilet, tub and sink are not draining properly, and now toilet tissue and sewage are coming out of the cleanout in the front lawn. Surely a plumber would be able to fix the problem in a timely manner, and never mind the cost, right?

The City's Sewer Division has another recommendation: Call the

City first. Residents can call the 24-hour hotline, (408) 730-7510, and get a prompt and friendly response to their sewer-related issues, often within two hours during normal business hours. If the problem is on the public side of the lateral or if the blockage is caused by roots from a City tree, staff will deal with

the problem and leave information on your door regarding the work that was done. And if the problem stems from the private side of the sewer lateral, staff may still advise residents to call a plumber, but the quick response, diagnosis of the problem and consultation will have all been provided at no cost. ☼



SUNNYVALE TO HOST LANDSCAPING SERIES

In cooperation with the Bay Area Water Supply and Control Agency (BAWSCA), the City of Sunnyvale will host a course called Native California Plants for Every Garden. The course will provide residents an opportunity to learn about beautiful California plants that can be successfully grown in different home garden situations. Soil preparation and garden maintenance will also be discussed. Participants will learn to select California plants that save water and convey a sense of harmony.

The course will be held Saturday, October 10, at the Sunnyvale Community Center Neighborhood Room, 550 E. Remington Drive, 9 a.m. – noon. For additional details regarding the course, contact Lourdes Verzosa-Enriquez at (650) 349-3000 or e-mail lenriquez@bawasca.org.

UPCOMING PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

**Navigating the Food Pyramid: Total Family Nutrition
Wednesday, October 14, 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.**

Registered Dietician Jodi Bjurman will discuss how busy families can stay healthy and make meals that are balanced, easy to prepare and taste great, even for picky eaters. This talk offers personalized eating plans, tools to help you plan and assess your food choices, and advice to help you:

- Make smart choices from every food group
- Find a balance between food and physical activity
- Get the most nutrition out of calories

To register, call (408) 523-8150, TDD (408) 730-7501, or register via e-mail at ChildCareResources@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us. The workshop will be held at Columbia Neighborhood Center, 785 Morse Ave.

SUNNYVALE HOTELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEEDS

When visiting clients, employees or family need a place to spend the night, recommend a Sunnyvale hotel. Sunnyvale has about 20 full-service hotels, where guests can enjoy a variety of services and amenities. Many of Sunnyvale's hotels offer large rooms, free high-speed Internet access, and 24-hour room service. Some even offer a free breakfast buffet and free snacks, and many are conveniently located near major businesses.

For information, visit the online map at Hotels.inSunnyvale.com, or contact Economic Development at (408) 730-7607, TDD (408) 730-7501.

NEW STREET TREES NEED WATER

The trees that make up Sunnyvale's urban forest make our City a beautiful place to live. But when the City plants new street trees, they need help from residents to make sure those new trees survive and thrive.

The most important thing a new tree needs is water. Until its roots can grow out into the native soil, a newly planted street tree requires regular watering for a few months after it is planted. Sunnyvale

residents can help by watering new street trees planted in front of their homes. Depending on what time of year a tree is planted, the water demand will vary, but irrigating a newly planted tree twice a week with 15 gallons of water, on average, costs just six cents per irrigation.

For more information on tree watering, including how much and how often to water, contact Sunnyvale's Street Tree Services at (408) 730-7505, TDD (408) 730-7501. ☼

SUNNYVALE OFFERS PROGRAM FOR PARENTS OF AT-RISK TEENS

These days, it's tougher than ever to be a kid, and that means it's even tougher to be a parent. That's why the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office have teamed up to present Parent Project®, a 12-week program that helps parents deal with challenging teens.

Parent Project classes, which begin Wednesday, October 7 (a spanish language class begins on October 6), and run 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Community Center, are facilitated by Sunnyvale public safety officers, trained and accredited by the National Parent Project Program. Participants will learn how

to redirect arguments and conflicts at home; improve school attendance and performance; prevent, recognize and intervene in alcohol and drug use and gang activity; address threats of violence or running away and motivate and influence their teens.

The fee for the program is \$120, which includes food and a \$35 take-home workbook. Some scholarships are available. Space is limited to the first 25 participants, and food and child care will be provided.

For more information or to register, contact Parent Project coordinator Jim Davis at (408) 730-7145, or e-mail jdavis@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us. The Sunnyvale Community Center is located at 550 E. Remington Drive, and is served by VTA Line 55. ☼

**For All City Services,
TDD Access (408) 730-7501**

SUNNYVALE LANDFILL — CLOSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Sunnyvale landfill has been fully closed since 1993, but it still requires regular maintenance and monitoring to comply with state, local and federal regulations. These regulations are designed to protect the environment and the community’s health and safety. When first used for disposal in the 1920s, the landfill’s elevation was only slightly above that of the dikes that ring the Bay. Now, the 93-acre landfill’s four hills rise above their surroundings at Borregas Avenue, north of Caribbean Drive, and are often mistaken for natural landforms. Combined, the four hills contain

about 2.5 million tons of garbage covered by an engineered clay cap that seals in the waste. But there’s more than just garbage in those hills. Beneath the surface, the landfill has an extensive array of gas collectors, pipes, groundwater monitoring wells and leachate risers, which monitor and periodically extract leachate – the liquid that has percolated through waste — for disposal. The gas produced by microbial decomposition of the garbage contains methane, which is collected by applying a vacuum to the gas collection and control system. This collection system

largely prevents the release of the methane — a potent greenhouse gas — to the atmosphere. The recovered methane is then mixed with methane generated in the Water Pollution Control Plant’s digesters, as well as some imported natural gas, and burned in two large combustion engine-equipped generators to supply the electrical needs of the City’s Water Pollution Control Plant. Excess energy generated by this process is sold back to the California power grid, offsetting some of the City’s power costs and helping reduce the City’s carbon footprint. ☀

PLASTIC BAGS ARE A PROBLEM: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Environmental Issues

According to Californians Against Waste, 400 lightweight plastic bags are distributed in California every second. That is about 14 billion bags per year. Unfortunately, only a tiny percentage of these get recycled; instead they end up clogging our creeks, streams and bays, and are a major contributor to the plastic litter killing thousands of marine animals every year. In one large area of the Pacific Ocean, located about 1,000 miles west of California, there is a huge mass of plastic garbage estimated to cover an area twice the size of Texas. Swirled together by ocean currents, this patch, known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, already contains 46 times more plastic particles than plankton.

Hidden Costs

A common misconception about plastic bags is that people think of them as being free. On the contrary, stores raise prices to recover the cost of these “free” bags; consumers are left to pay that cost when they buy products at the store. In addition, since most of the bags are not recycled, they end up in the garbage where they clog machinery that separates the recyclables from the trash and cause costly down time for cleaning. The hidden cost of using, disposing and cleaning up after plastic bags is considerable. It costs the state \$25 million annually to landfill discarded plastic bags and over \$303 million annually in litter abatement.

The Alternative? Bring Your Own Bag!

There’s no reason for these bags to end up in the landfill or

our oceans. The best solution is to bring your own bag when you shop. Now is a great time to start the habit. Returning the plastic bags to the store is also an option. Do not leave plastic bags in the garbage or in your recycling cart. For a list of Sunnyvale stores who have plastic bag recycling available, visit www.sunnyvalerecycles.org and click on “Reusable Bags”. ☀

ARE YOU FLUSHING MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN?

If you’re still using an old 3.5 gallon or more flush toilet, you’re flushing your money down the drain along with unneeded water. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is helping Sunnyvale residents conserve water and save money by offering a rebate program for high-efficiency toilets.

High-efficiency toilets use a minimum of 20 percent less water than even standard 1.6 gallon per flush (gpf) toilets. Any toilet that flushes at 1.28 gpf or less is considered high efficiency. Dual-flush toilets save water by offering a separate, low-water-use flush setting for liquids (between 0.8 and 1.1 gpf) in addition to the standard 1.6 gpf for solids.

Sunnyvale residents can receive up to \$125 per toilet for replacing old, high-water-use toilets that use 3.5 gpf or more, with a new high-efficiency toilet from SCVWD’s approved toilet list. Certain restrictions apply.

Rebates will be available for qualified toilets until funding is depleted. There is a limit of three high-efficiency or dual-flush toilets per single-family home. Multi-family homes are limited only by the number of 3.5 gpf toilets on-site.

Pre-approval is required for rebates. Call (877) 874-8479 for pre-approval and to request a rebate application. An on-site inspection may be required to receive approval. Be sure to read the application requirements carefully and remember to include an original sales receipt with your application.

For details about the Rebate Program visit www.valleywater.org/conservation.



ABANDONED SHOPPING CART ORDINANCE

A new City ordinance addresses the problem of abandoned shopping carts within the City. Passed by Council, Sunnyvale City Ordinance 2882-08 allows for the recovery of funds to offset the significant cost of staff time devoted to ridding the streets of unsightly carts. Residents are encouraged to call the Graffiti and Abandoned Shopping Cart Hotline at (408) 730-7680 to report the location of carts and which vendor they belong to. The ordinance now holds accountable those stores and vendors that allow shopping

carts to leave their property. These changes to the way City staff handles the reporting and collection of abandoned shopping carts have led to a decrease in the number of carts around town. In addition, the City has been able to become much more proactive, searching hot spots where carts have historically been found, rather than relying solely on resident reports. For more information about the City’s Abandoned Cart program, contact the Department of Public Works at (408) 730-7510, TDD (408) 730-7501. ☀



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